Expansion of Panipat Refinery

*310. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation has put on hold its proposed refinery expansion project at Panipat in Haryana;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to overcome the problems at Panipat and assist Indian Oil Corporation to expand its refinery?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The refining capacity expansion programme of Panipat Refinery from 6.0 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 12.0 MMTPA is being re-looked by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in the light of levy of Haryana Local Area Development Tax (HLADT), not exceeding 4% *w.e.f.* 5-5-2000. This said tax would have an adverse impact on the viability as well as competitiveness of the refinery project.

(c) IOCL has taken up the matter for exemption from HLADT and grant of sales tax incentives with the Government of Haryana. The Government of India has recommended to the State Government the favourable consideration of IOCL's request.

Terminal building of Srinagar Airport

*311. SHRI MIRZA ABDUL RASHID : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1693 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 2001, and state :

(a) the progress made with regard to the expansion and modification of terminal building of Srinagar Airport; and

(b) whether Government have taken any action on the long pending demand for conversion of Srinagar Airport into International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Srinagar Airport belongs to Ministry of Defence. Airports Authority of India maintains a civil enclave for handling civil flight operations. The earlier proposal for modification of the Terminal building envisaged single level operations. However, it was subsequently changed to provide for 2-level